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Mrs. Nixon 190

WASHINGTON AP - President Nixon announced today he is sending his wife, Pat, on a major diplomatic mission to Latin America. She will head the U.S. delegation at the inauguration of the presidents of Venezuela and Brazil in March.

Mrs. Nixon is to depart March 10 and return March 16 after attending the ceremonies in Caracas and Brasilia.

In making the announcement, presidential Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said Mrs. Nixon's trip was evidence of President Nixon's "continued personal interest in promoting close and cooperative relations with the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean." Ziegler pointed out that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is currently in Mexico City meeting with foreign ministers for an exchange of opinion on how best to establish "the basis for new and mutually advantageous dialogue between our countries." "Mrs. Nixon's trip will contribute to this effort to build a new community of the Americas based on equality and respect for the dignity of all," he said.

Mrs. Nixon's mission will take her to Caracas, Venezuela, for the March 12 inauguration of President Carlos Andres Perez and to Brasilia March 15 for the inauguration of president Ernesto Geisel.

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Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the CIA Operations Center and of the appropriate analytic component in the Agency to the attached item from the news wire services.

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Mrs. Nixon Trip 400

WASHINGTON AP - The deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency and President Nixon's own doctor will be among 50 persons accompanying First Lady Pat Nixon on a diplomatic mission next week to Latin America. Mrs. Nixon will be her husband's personal emissary for the inauguration of the new presidents of Venezuela and Brazil. Joining Mrs. Nixon as a goodwill ambassador for the ceremonies will be Nicholas H. Morley, a Miami businessman involved in investment and land development.

The U.S. ambassadors to Venezuela and Brazil are to comprise the rest of the delegation, the White House said Wednesday. To attend the inauguration March 12 of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Mrs. Nixon will be returning to Caracas for the first time since 1958, when she and then Vice President Nixon were beset in their motorcade by an angry mob. This time, Mrs. Nixon will have the protection of seven Secret Service agents traveling along with her as well as other security forces when she arrives in Venezuela.

Deputy CIA Director Vernon A. Walters, who was with the Nixons during the tense 1958 incident, is going back as Mrs. Nixon's interpreter, according to the White House. Fluent in eight languages, Gen. Walters also translated for Mrs. Nixon when she went to Peru to aid earthquake victims there in 1970.

The President's personal White House physician, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, has been assigned to Mrs. Nixon's six-day journey. He will be absent during a period when Nixon himself has scheduled some trips.

Keeping Mrs. Nixon coiffed for receptions and public appearances on the Latin American trip will be her personal hairdresser and secretary, Mrs. Rita DeSantis, who previously accompanied the First Lady on journeys to China and the Soviet Union.

Aboard the big presidential jet with Mrs. Nixon and the others will be a news media contingent of 29.

Mrs. Nixon leaves Monday on the 9,166-mile trip, which will take her to Brasilia for the inauguration March 15 of Brazilian President Gen. Ernesto Geisel.

The First Lady will return March 16 to join up with President Nixon in Nashville, Tenn., where they will celebrate her 62nd birthday at a performance of the Grand Ole Opry.

Comment:

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